(b) As per the Handloom Census 1995-96, there are 40,314 handloom units in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

(c) The Government of India has been implementing various Developmental Schemes namely Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY), Development of Exportable Products & their Marketing Scheme (DEPM), Mill Gate Price Scheme for supply of yarn, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme for providing infrastructural support for handloom weavers in the country including Himachal Pradesh. Financial assistance is also provided for holding district level events in the State. The Weavers' Service Centre at Delhi takes care of the training requirements of the weavers of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Delhi.

Sick textile mills

2976. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick textile mills in the country; State-wise;

(b) the steps taken to modernise the existing textile mills; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to make the existing mills economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL) (a) As per information furnished by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, the state-wise number of sick textiles mills registered with them, as on 30-9-2002, is as follows:—

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of Textile Mills
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44
2.	Bihar	3
3.	Chandigarh	1
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	7
5.	Goa	1
6.	Gujarat	99

1	2	3
7.	Haryana	28
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1
9.	Kerala	10
10.	Karnataka	40
11.	Madhya Pradesh	24
12.	Maharashtra	147
13.	NCT Delhi	33
14.	Orissa	7
15.	Punjab	27
16.	Rajasthan	37
17.	Tamil Nadu	147
18.	Uttar Pradesh	43
19.	West Bengal	30
20.	Assam	4
	TOTAL:	733

(b) The Government has launched the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for modernisation of the Textile and Jute Industries in the country, w.e.f. April 01, 1999 for a period of five years. The Scheme provides for reimbursement of five percent interest charged by the financial institutions/bank for technology upgradation projects in conformity with the Scheme.

(c) The role of the Government in this regard is that of a facilitator and it has taken various steps to improve the viability of textile mills. These *inter-alia* include rationalisation of fiscal duties structure in textile sector, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), Apparel Park for Export Scheme, Textiles Centre Infrastructure Developmental Scheme (TCIDS), export promotional activities by way of participation in fairs/ exhibitions and organising Buyer-Seller Meets in important markets by the Textile Export Promotion Council to increase their competitiveness in the domestic and international markets.